



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads to Murdering USC Grad Student

A 22-year-old man pleaded guilty today to murdering a University of Southern California graduate student three years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jonathan Del Carmen pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree murder. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 3 when he faces a possible maximum sentence of 15 years to life in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney John McKinney with the Major Crimes Division prosecuted the case.

Del Carmen and others confronted 24-year-old Xinran Ji, who was walking home from a study group near the USC campus shortly before 1 a.m. on July 24, 2014. The victim was struck several times with a bat and a wrench before he ran away.

Co-defendant Andrew Garcia, 21, eventually caught up to Ji and hit him repeatedly with the bat. Ji made his way back to his apartment where he died. He was found hours later by a roommate.

Earlier this week, Garcia was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. In June, jurors found him guilty of one count each of first-degree murder, robbery, attempted robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. The special circumstance allegation of murder during an attempted robbery was found to be true.

Alejandra Guerrero, who was 16 when the murder occurred, was convicted in October 2016 of one count each of first-degree murder, robbery, attempted robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. A sentencing date hasn't been set.

Garcia and Guerrero were each convicted for robbing a man and a woman near Dockweiler Beach, the prosecutor said.

Ochoa is awaiting trial.

Case BA427590 was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.